

PLATYSMA MELANARIUM (ILL., 1798) IN NEW YORK STATE
(CARABIDAE: PTEROSTICHINI)

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The common European carabid *Platysma* (*Omasoidius*) *melanarium* (Ill., 1798)¹ [= *vulgare* Schaum, 1847 (nec Linn., 1758)], which has previously been recorded from Oregon and Washington (Hatch, 1933), southwestern British Columbia (Hatch, 1933, and Leech, 1935), and Nova Scotia and southwestern Ontario (Brown, 1950), has recently been collected in northwestern New York. Ten specimens, 5 males and 5 females, were taken 0.8 miles west of Mertensia in Ontario County on June 21, 1951, by Robert M. Roecker, Vernon L. King, and George E. Ball. They were found under logs and stones on moist sandy-clay soil about twenty feet from Fish Creek, a small tributary of Ganargua Creek, which drains into Lake Ontario. A single male was collected by the writer in downtown Rochester, at dusk on June 27, 1951, and an additional series of thirteen specimens, 9 males and 4 females, was collected during the summer of 1947 on the Fred Cornwell farm, near Paltneyville in Wayne County. They were found under rocks on the shore of Lake Ontario. These localities are within thirty miles of one another. The Mertensia locality is about twenty miles south of Lake Ontario.

The best single character for separating *melanarium* (Ill.) from the other North American species of *Platysma* (subgenera *Melanius* and *Metamelanius*) is the presence of setae on the ventro-lateral margins of tarsal segment 5. This is also one of the diagnostic features of the subgenus *Omasoidius* Jeannel, 1944. The number of setae per ventro-lateral margin is 3, but occasionally a segment is found with only 2 or as many as 4 setae per margin. Hatch (1933) gives 1 or 2 as the number of setae on either margin of the ventral surface of the last tarsal segment. This is not the case in the specimens which I have examined.

¹Brown (1950), following Andrewes (1939), places *melanarium* (Ill.) in the genus *Feronia* Latr., 1817. This is correct if the super specific name *Platysma*, which includes *melanarium*, is considered as representing a group of species which is accorded subgeneric rank in the genus *Feronia*. However, it is my opinion that *Platysma* Samouelle, 1819, represents a distinct genus, and therefore I use it as the generic name for *melanarium*.

TABLE I

Variation in total size and development of hind wings in 24 specimens of *Platysma melanarium* (Ill.) from northwestern N. Y.

		Size in mm.		Hind wings	
		length	width	fully devel.	partially devel.
♂ ♂	17.0-19.0 (18.0)	5.5-6.5 (5.8)	12	3	
♀ ♀	17.0-20.0 (18.4)	5.5-7.0 (6.1)	5	4	

TABLE II

Variation in elytral punctation of 10 specimens of *Platysma malanarium* (Ill.) from northwestern N. Y.

Number of punctures		
No. and sex	Left elytron	Right elytron
9 ♂ ♂ 6 ♀ ♀	2	2
1 ♂	2	3
1 ♂	2	4
5 ♂ ♂	3	2
1 ♂	3	3
1 ♂	4	3

Data on variation in total size and development of the hind wings for these specimens are presented in Table I, and data on variation in elytral punctation are presented in Table II. Elytral punctures are on interval 3, close to stria 2. This information is presented for the benefit of future workers who may study the introduced population of this species, and who may want some idea of intra-specific variability at the time this population was first recorded.

Further studies should be made to determine the geographical limits of distribution of this species within the state, its morphological variability, and its mode of introduction. In connection with the latter, Dr. Henry Dietrich has suggested that because there are a large number of greenhouses and plant nurseries in the general area in which *melanarium* was taken, the species may have been introduced in earth attached to roots of imported plants. It will be interesting to find out if the population of *P. melanarium*, which is apparently established in northwestern New York State at least, will be able to compete successfully

with the native fauna, extend its range, and eventually become widespread, as, for example, *Carabus nemoralis*, another introduced species, has succeeded in doing.

The specimens mentioned in this paper will be distributed as follows: 3 males, 2 females, Museum of Comparative Zoology; 3 males, 2 females, United States National Museum; 3 males, 2 females, Cornell University; 6 males, 3 females, the writer's collection.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Dr. Henry Dietrich, Curator of Entomology, Cornell University, for help in determining this series of specimens.

LITERATURE CITED

- Andrewes, H. E. The generic names of British insects. Part 6. (Royal Ent. Soc. London). Pp. 184-185. 1939.
- Brown, W. J. The extra-limital distribution of some species of Coleoptera. Canadian Ent., vol. 82, pp. 197-205. 1950.
- Hatch, M. H. Notes on Carabidae. Pan-Pacific Ent., vol. 9, pp. 117-121. 1933.
- Leech, H. B. British Columbia records of Carabidae and Hydrophilidae. Pan-Pacific Ent., vol. 11, pp. 120-124. 1935.

ANOTHER INSECT FEEDING ON *Rhus* OF THE *Toxicodendron*-SECTION

Epipaschia superatalis Clem., a pyralid, is an addition to the lists in this Bulletin by Howden, Howden, and Ritcher (volume 5, number 2, 1951) and Steyskal (volume 5, number 5/6, 1952) in this Bulletin. It was reported by Dyar (1904, Journ. New York Ent. Soc., vol. 12, p. 249). A good account of this species and of *Epipaschia zelleri* Grote (listed by the above authors) is given by Dyar, who observed them on poison ivy at Weekapaug, Rhode Island.

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NECROLOGY

We learn with regret of the death at Austin, Texas, on October 15, 1951, of J. O. Martin, who was for many years at the California Academy of Sciences. His publications started about 1919 and dealt with many groups of beetles. R.E.B.